



Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

ROMANCE OF POSTAGE STAMPS

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NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

Cover Design : Chiranjit Lal

ISBN 81-237-1078-X

First Edition 1973

Second Edition 1989

Seventh Reprint 1999 (*Saka* 1920)

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Rs. 10.00

Published by the Director, National Book Trust, India

A-5 Green Park, New Delhi-110 016



ROMANCE OF POSTAGE STAMPS

It was the evening of 26 January 1965. A silver-red Boeing 707 from New York landed at London airport. A crowd of press reporters, newsreel-cameramen and others milled around, filled with excitement. Mr Finber Kenny climbed out with the 'One-Cent' British Guiana stamp. This 'one-cent' stamp had been insured at £200,000 (Rs 46,00,000) and was specially brought by a 'bodyguard' for display at the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition in London.

Next morning that priceless piece of paper was the topic of the day. All the papers carried headlines on it and the BBC did a special programme with a close-up of the stamp. What was so remarkable about a scrap of old black-and-magenta paper? The story of this stamp is very interesting.

In earlier days the stamps of British Guiana were printed by a British printer, Waterlow & Sons. In 1856, the stock of stamps was exhausted but a fresh supply had failed to arrive. So the postmaster hurriedly had 4-cent stamps



printed locally using the existing design, the seal of the colony—a ship and the motto 'Damus Petimusque Vicis sim' (We give and we seek in turn). These new stamps were printed on magenta paper in black ink but the quality was so poor that the

postmaster, to prevent forgery, asked the postal officials to initial each stamp before selling it.

Seventeen years later, a young British Guianese, L. Vernon Vaughan, who had just started collecting stamps, discovered among his family letters a 'one-cent' stamp with the initials of E.D. Wight. He did not know that by mistake one of the 4-cent stamps had been printed with the value of 'one-cent' and this stamp was in his possession. He soaked out the stamp and kept it in his album with his other stamps. The stamp was cut octagonally and was rather dirty. Vaughan decided to sell it to buy more attractive foreign stamps. With difficulty he persuaded a local collector

N.R. McKinnon to buy it for 6 shillings (Rs 6.40). He did not dream that the stamp which he sold for the small sum of 6 shillings would one day be priceless.



Five years later this stamp was sold again to a collector Thomas Ridpath of Liverpool for £120 (Rs 2,760). He resold it in the same year to the famous French stamp-collector, Phillip la Renotiere von Ferrary for £150 (Rs 3,400). Word spread of the rarity of this stamp. After Ferrary's death in 1917, his collections were sold by auction at Paris between 1921 and 1925. In 1922, in one of the sales this 'one-cent' British Guiana was bought by an American, Arthur Hind for £7,343 (Rs 1,68,886).

Arthur Hind died in 1933 and left his stamp-collection as a part of his estate. His widow, however, claimed that the 'one-cent' British Guiana had been given to her by her husband. She won her case and in 1940, the stamp was sold for \$40,000 (Rs 5,20,000) to an Australian collector who chose to remain anonymous.

In 1970 the stamp was again auctioned in New York and Mr Irwin Weinberg and his syndicate purchased it at the astronomical price of \$2,80,000 (Rs 34,60,000). It was while the stamp was in the possession of the syndicate that Mr Irwin Weinberg brought it to New Delhi to display it at the International Stamp Exhibition, India '80 in January. Three months after this the stamp was auctioned in New York and was sold to an anonymous collector for \$8,50,000 (Rs 1,10,50,000).

This stamp is considered the world's



greatest philatelic rarity. You can imagine what price this stamp will fetch in the future!

The story of the world famous 'Post Office' Mauritius stamps is equally interesting. Mauritius, a small island in the Indian Ocean, was the fifth country in the world to issue postage stamps. In 1847, it was decided to bring out Mauritius stamps in 1d and 2d denominations. Lady Gomm, wife of the then Governor of Mauritius, was planning to hold a fancy dress ball on 30 September 1847 and she wanted to use the first postage stamps of Mauritius on her letter of invitation. As time was short it was decided to have the first postage stamps printed locally.

On the small island only one man, J. Barnard, knew how to engrave designs on plates. He was asked to engrave the design for the stamps. The design selected had Queen Victoria's head in the centre, the inscription 'Postage' at the top and 'Value' at the bottom, 'Mauritius' on the right and 'Post Paid' on the left. Barnard was asked to print 500 stamps of 1d and 2d value each quickly. He completed the design and printed the stamps but made the mistake of engraving 'Post Office' instead of 'Post Paid'.

The story goes that after 'Mauritius', 'Postage' and 'Value' were engraved on the design, Barnard lost the paper on which the words to be inscribed were written by the postmaster and he could not remember what was to be engraved on the left-hand side. So he set off to ask the postmaster. On approaching the post office, Barnard looked up and saw the sign 'Post Office' on the building. Immediately convinced that these were the forgotten words he rushed back and engraved the words 'Post Office' on the

design. Thus the stamps were wrongly printed with the inscription 'Post Office' instead of 'Post Paid'.

These stamps were put on sale on 20 September 1847, but the mistake was not detected until 1864, when Madam Borchard, wife of a Bordeaux merchant, found 12 of these rarities among her husband's corres-



pondence. About 26 specimens of these stamps are now known to be in existence, 14 of them in 1d and 12 in 2d denominations. Each time they have changed hands their prices have gone up.

The finest piece amongst these stamps is an envelope bearing two specimens of the 1d value. The envelope was addressed to Thos Jerrom Esq. at Bombay and was posted on 4 January 1850. This envelope was found in a bazar in India and was bought by one Mr Howard for £50 (Rs 1,100). He sold it in London for £1,600 (Rs 36,800). In 1906 it was sold at £2,200 (Rs 50,600). In 1917, it found a place in the collection of Mr A.F. Lichtenstein. On his death in 1947, his daughter became the owner of this famous envelope. This was sold in 1968 at \$3,80,000 (Rs 49,40,000) to the Raymond H. Weile Co. of New Orleans. One wonders how a small scrap of paper became such a treasure!

These are not the only famous stamps. There are a large

number of others which have become famous and rare owing to errors and scarcity.

For the benefit of the young collectors I have described in this book how the postage stamp came to be used, how stamp-collection started, its utility, how and what to collect, the printing processes and other important aspects of postage stamps.





STORY OF THE POST

Postal service is accepted today as a routine convenience. The posting and receiving of letters has become part of our daily lives but few of us have any idea of the vast system which has been developed over the years to make this service available.

Postal service had its origin in the necessity of maintaining communications between different parts of an empire. It enabled the emperor to keep a track of all that was happening. Earlier the post was a privilege reserved for kings and emperors alone. Today it is at the service of the humblest citizen.

All early carrier systems were run along courier routes whether in India, Egypt, China or Great Britain. Now means of communication have improved greatly and air, railway and motor services all play an important role in carrying letters speedily to their destinations. The romance of the post, however, lies in the mail-runners—men who carry mail across areas where no form of communication exists. Mail-runners pass through jungles, climb hills, cross rivers, brave wild animals and dacoits to carry your letters safely.





The postal system has been in existence in India since 1296. The Pathan ruler, Alauddin Khilji, had a horse-and-foot postal organisation to receive regular news of the condition and progress of his army. This system was greatly improved during the time of

Sher Shah who only reigned for a short-time (1541 to 1545). During these five years he built a 2,000-mile road from Bengal to Sind and constructed *sarais* along the roads. He established horse despatches throughout the Empire. Two horses were always kept ready at each *sarai* to ensure the quick transfer of despatches. A further development in the means of transport occurred during the reign of Akbar (1556 to 1605) when camels were used in addition to horses. History also tells of Rāja Chikka Deva of Mysore who organised a regular postal service throughout his dominion in 1672.





The next constructive step was taken by the East India Company who had spread their activities to Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by 1688. A regular exchange of correspondence was necessary, so the East India Company established major post offices at Bombay and Madras, and smaller ones at various places to receive and despatch letters. Lord Clive improved the postal system in 1766, although it was reserved for government use only. It was thrown open to the public in 1774. At that time, the lowest rate of letter postage was 2 annas for every 100 miles. To facilitate the payment of postage a special copper token of the value of 2 annas was struck by the mint.



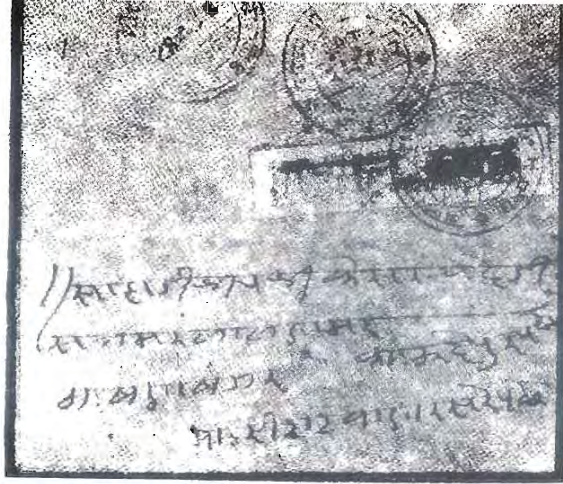
Postage had to be paid at the time of posting the letters at the post office. On payment of postage in cash the letters were cancelled or defaced with the words 'Post Paid', or 'Full Post Paid', etc. Letters for which postage had not been paid were also accepted and such letters were defaced with the words 'Bearing' or 'Post Not Paid' or 'Unpaid'. The postage fee on such

letters was recovered from the addressee.

In spite of the development of the postal service by the Government, private parties continued the business of carrying mail from one place to another and competed success-

UNPAID

POST PAID



fully with the Government.

In 1837, a major change in the service took place with the passing of the first Post Office Act. This Act was introduced not only to modernise the system but also to give the Government the exclusive right to run postal services throughout India. Private postal services were legally disallowed by this Act.



Lion and Palm Tree—Essay



BIRTH OF THE POSTAGE STAMP

Till the postage stamp was introduced, postage on letters was either pre-paid in cash by the sender or collected from the person to whom the letter was delivered. The cost was calculated according to the distance the letter had travelled. Letters were defaced with different kinds of stamps to indicate whether postage had been paid or not. As envelopes had not then been invented, a letter sent by post was just folded, sealed and addressed on the back. However, even with various improvements the system failed to meet the demand of the public for an efficient and cheap service.

In 1835; Rowland Hill began to study the tax situation in

England. He found that postal revenues were falling in spite of increased rates. His study also revealed that most letters were sent unpaid and many were refused by the addressees. An interesting story told to Rowland Hill illustrates how the postal service was misused.

One day when a young gentleman was out walking, he saw a postman take a letter to a woman who lived in a very humble cottage. The postman demanded 1 shilling for the letter but the woman shook her head sadly and returned the letter unopened. Thinking that the poor woman could not afford to pay for her letter, the young gentleman stepped forward and generously gave the required shilling, despite the woman's protests. As soon as the postman was out of sight she told him that he should not have wasted his money and opening the letter showed him that it was only a blank sheet of paper. She then explained that it was from her son who used this method, which did not cost either of them anything, to inform her that he was well.

Owing to the high rates of postage, many people tried to use the service without paying for it.

Rowland Hill assessed the cost of carrying letters and showed that the cost of a letter from London to Edinburgh was only one thirty-sixth of a penny. In 1837, he published his pamphlet 'Post Office Reform' urging the introduction of a low and uniform rate of postage whatever the distance travelled and the need to make pre-payment compulsory. He also suggested that a wrapper or envelope with a printed stamp indicating pre-payment should be issued. Those who wished to use their own stationery could buy small adhesive labels and stick them on their letters.

The principle of a uniform postage rate of 1d for a letter weighing half an ounce irrespective of distance and the pre-payment of postage by adhesive labels was finally adopted in Great Britain on 10 January 1840.

A competition was organised to suggest "the manner in which the stamp may best be brought into use". When making suggestions the following considerations had to be kept in mind:

1. The stamp should be convenient to handle.
2. It should be safe against forgery.
3. It should be easy to examine and check at the post office.
4. The expense of production and circulation of stamps should be given.

More than 2,600 entries or 'essays' as they are called were submitted and four prizes of £100 (Rs 2,300) each were awarded but none of them was used for the stamp. The stamp that was finally issued was the result of the negotiations of Rowland Hill with Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. The first postage stamp of the world, the 'Penny Black', came into use on 6 May 1840.



Brazilian 'Bull's-Eye'

Pre-payment of postage did away with various complications of collecting postal fees on delivery and prevented the heavy loss of revenue previously suffered. The success of the British experiment led to the issue of postage stamps by other countries. Brazil was the second country to issue stamps (1843). In



Basel Dove

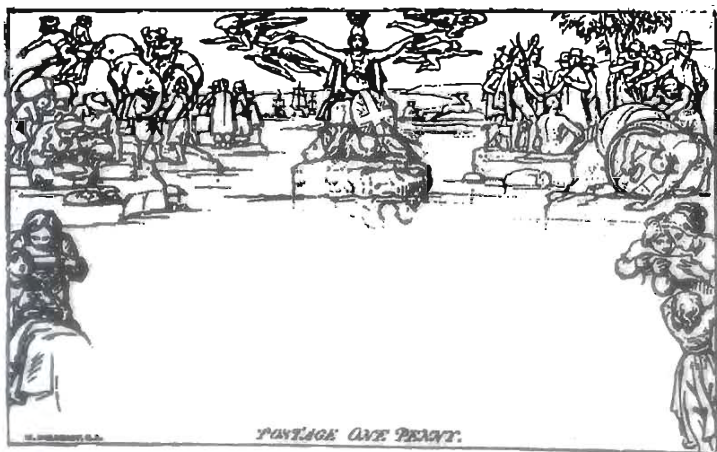


Zurich



Lady McLeod

the same year the cantons of Zurich and Geneva brought out their own stamps followed by the canton of Basel in 1845. The United States of America, Trinidad and Mauritius issued their own stamps in 1847. France, Belgium and Bavaria came out with their stamps in 1849. From 1850 onwards numerous countries joined the ranks of stamp-issuing countries.



Mulready Cover—the first pre-paid envelope. designed by William Mulready and issued in Great Britain in 1840



HISTORY OF INDIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

In India, Mr Bartle Frere, the Commissioner of Sind, introduced paper stamps in token of pre-payment of postage in the province of Sind in 1852. These stamps, the famous 'Scinde Dawks' were the first postage stamps brought out not only in India but also in Asia. The central design of the stamp was the East India Company's broad arrow and the stamps were embossed in different colours. Vermilion stamps were issued first but they had a very short life because they were embossed on brittle wafers. White stamps followed but embossing on white paper could not be seen clearly. So, stamps were finally embossed in blue colour on white paper.

After the 'Scinde Dawks' there was a general issue of stamps in India. The first design was the 'Lion and the Palm Tree' (see p.13) made by Colonel Forbes of the Calcutta mint. But as he could not promise an adequate supply with the machinery he had, the design was never used.

Captain Thuillier, Deputy Surveyor-General, then took up the production of stamps by lithography. With his zeal and efforts he succeeded in bringing out the first all-India stamp in September 1854. The stamps were of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna value, blue in colour and had Queen Victoria's head on them. Later, others of 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas value were also printed.

Before printing the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue stamps, 900 sheets of a red $\frac{1}{2}$ anna stamp were printed. These red stamps had a slightly different design for the border arches. Further printing of these stamps had to be stopped as the imported vermilion ink was exhausted. This first printing was of no use and all the stamps that were printed were destroyed. A





specimen copy is, however, preserved in our National Philatelic Museum. These red $\frac{1}{2}$ anna stamps which were printed but not used are popularly known as '9 $\frac{1}{2}$ Arches'. The stamps printed by Captain Thuillier were ungummed and imperforated which means that they were without perforations or holes to tear them out.

From 1856 to 1926, Indian stamps were printed by Messrs Thomas De La Rue & Co. of London. The design was changed with the change of the ruler. Thus the stamps carried the head of Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI in succession. Stamps of different denominations were printed in different colours. In 1926, the India Security Press was set up at Nasik and the responsibility of printing postage stamps was entrusted to it.

The first Indian pictorial stamp was issued in 1931 on the occasion of the inauguration of New Delhi. These stamps depicted scenes and landmarks of New Delhi. The next occasion when commemorative stamps were issued was the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. In 1937, stamps with pictures showing the various aspects of carrying mail were issued. To commemorate the end of World War II a special issue of four stamps was brought out in 1946.





Since Independence, India has issued several definitive and commemorative series of stamps portraying various aspects of its life and culture. These have depicted our wildlife, religions, themes connected with our Five Year Plans, our ancient architecture, social and educational themes connected with children, historical events, the conquest of Mt Everest, etc. National leaders and freedom fighters, philosophers and thinkers, educationists and scientists, writers and artists, have also been similarly honoured. To make the stamps more attractive and colourful, a multi-colour printing machine was installed at the Nasik Security



Press in March 1972. India is now bringing out colourful stamps in series like Indian Masks, Indian Miniature Paintings, Indian Dances, etc. This is another landmark in the history of stamps in India. There are two other landmarks which are worth remembering.

India was also the first country to fly mail. This was on 18 February 1911 when 6,500 letters and postcards were flown from Allahabad to Naini. India was the first country in the Commonwealth to issue a special set of airmail stamps. This was in 1929.



M. Piquet on his bi-plane, which carried the first aerial post in 1911. At the top is a facsimile of the postmark used on the mail carried in that flight





STAMP-COLLECTING

The earliest story of stamp-collecting is that of a young lady who had a strange fancy to cover her dressing-room with cancelled postage stamps. She collected 16,000 stamps herself. In 1841, she advertised in the *London Times* requesting readers to send her more stamps. This craze for collecting stamps was widespread in the early years of the postage stamp. Gradually indiscriminate and chaotic collection was replaced by careful and systematic collection. Stamp-collecting also acquired a respectable name, 'philately', which is made from a combination of the Greek words 'philos' meaning 'fond of' and 'ateles' meaning 'exemption from tax'.

Stamp-collecting is a universal hobby. People collect stamps not only for what they are worth in themselves but also for their designs, the stories they tell, the events they commemorate, and the sidelights they throw on the production of stamps. In fact, postage stamps are "the windows of a nation through which people overseas may behold its heritage and nature". They reflect every aspect of a nation's life including its trade, history, art, crafts and natural history.



Stamp-collecting is now far from just a hobby; it is a subject of serious study. The study of stamps leads its enthusiasts to the study of geography, history and the natural life of various countries. An album of stamps can, therefore, be a book of knowledge as well as a book of original research.



What to Collect

‘What to collect’ and ‘How to collect’ are problems which face all beginners. A hundred years ago, it was easy for a collector to have a complete collection with all the stamps of the world. But with the growing popularity of stamp-collecting, countries found stamps a good medium for publicising their culture, industries, landscape, geography and achievements in various other fields.

There is hardly any subject or theme which has not been depicted on stamps. Some of the popular themes are Airmails, Arts, Birds, Butterflies, Communications, Fishes, Famous Men and Women, Flowers, Medicine, Paintings, Postal History, Railways, Religion, Scouts, Space, Sports, Ships; etc.

More than 3,00,000 postage stamps have been issued by all the countries of the world. Six thousand to 7,000 new stamps are issued each year. It has, therefore, become impossible today to have even a reasonably complete world collection.

Collectors have, as a result, started specialising in topics or themes, a particular country or a region. In fact, topical collections have become the norm in the last few years. One reason for this may be that a topical collection has a very wide appeal. Almost everyone can find a subject that interests him and become an ardent stamp-collector on his subject. Themes may be sub-divided into smaller groups. A philatelist collecting stamps on birds, for instance, may divide them into land and sea birds, game birds and birds of prey.

It is, therefore, desirable to decide what to collect before you actually start collecting. Whatever subject you pick on, the collection should be as complete as possible. Haphazard collections should be avoided. You should begin your collection systematically for nothing kills interest faster than a poor beginning.

Select any subject which interests you. Considering how easily they can be obtained, stamps on 'India—Post-Independence' would be the best for the beginner to start with.





How to Collect

Start your collection by accumulating stamps. Plenty of them will be available. Check the mail coming to your house from friends or from the office. Don't try to remove stamps from their covers by peeling them off. Cut out the portion of the envelope with the stamp leaving a good margin around.

From a stamp-store you may also buy a small packet of stamps already separated from the envelopes on which they were stuck. You will also find that your school friends are eager to exchange their duplicates.

You are now ready with a packet of stamps of your choice. But where are you going to mount them? A great variety of albums are available—albums on different subjects, in different styles and at varying prices, and with illustrations to help you identify your stamps. It is best for the beginner to avoid buying an album in which stamps can be mounted on both sides of the page. In such albums there is a danger of detaching, tearing or otherwise damaging the stamps every time the album is opened. It is better to use an



album with loose leaves. It would be useful to buy a stamp catalogue, for it will not only guide you in mounting your stamps in the right places but will also give you details concerning the stamps and the varieties issued in each group.

Mounting of Stamps

Before starting the actual operation of mounting your stamps, you should get a packet of hinges and a pair of tongs.

Never use glue, paste or adhesive tape for mounting stamps. They will damage your stamps forever. What you need is a packet of hinges. Stamp hinges are small rectangles of a special thin but tough paper with a double coating of gum, so that, when dry they can be detached easily from the back of the stamp or the album page without damaging the stamp. Hinges are not expensive, so always buy the best quality. Hinges are available as flat strips gummed on one side. When using them they are to be folded with the adhesive side on the outside. The hinge is not to be folded in the centre but towards one end so that one fold is longer than the other. The short end is to stick on the stamp and the long one to stick on the album.

A pair of stamp tongs (tweezers) is recommended. Instead of using your fingers and thumbs which are likely to soil and damage the stamps, use tweezers to handle them. The tweezers should be rust-proof and should not be sharp.

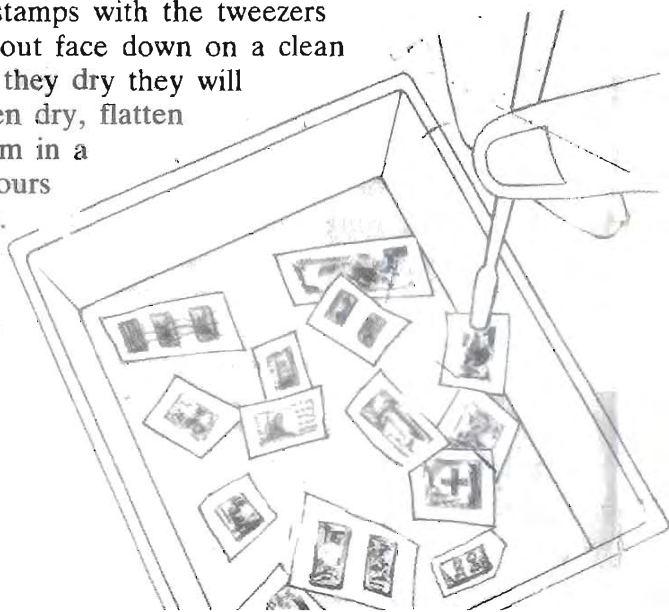
Using tweezers may be difficult in the beginning but with a little practice you will be able to use them quite expertly.

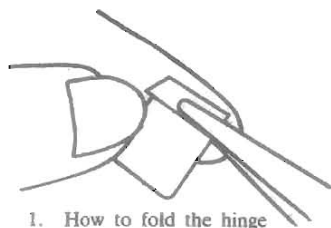


Now that you have your stamps, hinges, album and tweezers, the first thing to do is to remove the used stamps from the paper to which they are stuck and wash away all the old gum. Before doing this, sort out your collection. Discard the stamps which are badly damaged—those with the design torn, the corners off, the perforation trimmed or heavily postmarked. It will distress you to have to discard so many stamps but do not hesitate to do so because you should aim at building up a collection worth having.

Now place the good stamps in a vessel (a tray) of cold water, push them down and separate them gently from the paper. Do not put in all the stamps together. Put in a handful or two at a time and let them soak long enough for the stamps to detach themselves from the paper. While soaking, the ink on some stamps may run. Pull them out of the water immediately or you will spoil the whole batch. Stamps which are printed with fugitive ink (ink that is not fast) should be soaked separately and carefully. Pick up the detached stamps with the tweezers and spread them out face down on a clean paper to dry. As they dry they will tend to curl. When dry, flatten them and put them in a book for a few hours to keep them flat.

After soaking, drying and flattening, the stamps are ready to be mounted on your album.



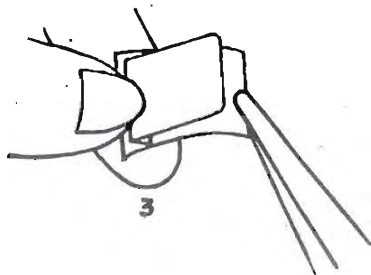


1. How to fold the hinge

Sort out your stamps and lay them out on pages in the order you plan to mount them. Fold a hinge about one-third or one-fourth the distance from one end and apply the short end to the top of the back of the stamp just below the perforations. When sticking the hinges, do not moisten them too much. Particularly in the case of mint

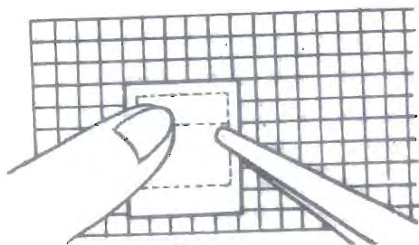
2. How to affix the folded hinge on the back of the stamp

(unused) stamps too much moistening is likely to affect the gum on the back of the stamps. After fixing the hinge on the stamp,

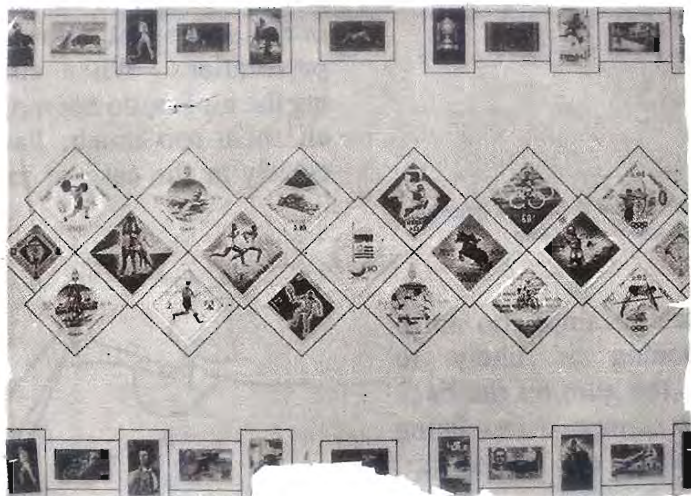


3

- 3&4. How to affix the hinged stamps on album page



moisten the other end of the hinge properly and place the stamp at the appropriate place on the page. Press it gently down with a finger against the page. Acetate mounts with coloured back and transparent front of different sizes and varieties are now available. The use of these mounts instead of hinges will protect the stamps from being damaged and spoiled.



Stamp Layout

The greatest satisfaction of stamp-collecting is exhibiting your collection. Stamp exhibitions at all levels, district, regional, national and international are regularly organised. Once you have started stamp-collecting, you should aim at building up a collection which can be displayed and evaluated at exhibitions.

2 आ. AS. 2500th BUDDHA JAYANTI



COLOR TRIALS



PHOTOCOPIES



FINISHED STAMPS



THE ROUND FIGURE ON THE LEFT IS A REPLICA OF THE UMBRELLA WHICH ONCE SURMOUNTED A COLOSSAL 'BOODHISATTA' STATUE AT BARNATH, CARVED IN THE REIGN OF THE KUSHAN KING VARISHKA (FIRST-SECOND CENTURY AD). THE UMBRELLA IS 10 FT. IN DIAMETER AND IS ADORNED WITH CONCENTRIC DECORATIVE BANDS. THE RINGED PROJECTING PORTION AT THE CENTRE HAS THE SHAPE OF A LOTUS. THE RING BEYOND THE LOTUS/PETALS CONTAINS A ROW OF TWELVE MYTHICAL ANIMALS. THE NEXT RING HAS ELEVEN SYMBOLS, BEYOND, ONE BOWEN, VIZ. THE THREE JEWELS, A PAIR OF FISH, A FLEUR-DE-LIS, A VASE WITH FLOWERS, A CONCH, A SWASTIKA, A VASE WITH FRUITS OR SWEETS, A CUP OF DRINKS, & THREE HONEY-SUCKLES. THE OUTERMOST RING IS MADE OF LOTUS/PETALS BORDERING THE UMBRELLA. ON THE RIGHT IS SHOWN A REPRESENTATION OF THE BOODHI TREE.



ARTIST'S REPRESENTATION OF THE ASVATTHA TREE (FICUS RELIGIOSA) AT BOODHI GAYA, SEATED UNDER WHICH GAUTAMA ACHIEVED ENLIGHTENMENT. IN BUDDHIST ART, THIS TREE SYMBOLIZES THE SUPREME MOMENT IN GAUTAMA'S LIFE WHEN HE BECAME THE BUDDHA.







For this you will have to procure stamps, commercially used covers, cancellations on the theme or subject you have selected. Besides traditional collections you will have to collect items brought out on the subject by various countries. Consult a standard catalogue like Stanley Gibbons, Scotts, etc. for this. Keep the philatelic items in the stock book before you actually mount them on album sheets.

Having collected the stamps and other philatelic items you will now have to prepare a plan (just like the contents of a book) to develop your chosen theme or subject in the best way you can. In effect the plan defines the structure of the work and its subdivisions into parts. It has to be logical, accurate, balanced and cover all aspects related to the subject. The more the subject is researched, the greater the originality of the materials presented. You must therefore give very careful thought when detailing the chapters and sub-chapter headings so as to properly develop the story line.

The final layout should be done on the thick white album pages of lightly ruled quadrillo paper. The exhibit looks best on white, cream or pale buff heavy paper which does not bend easily.

The write-up on the exhibits should be brief, readable, free from spelling mistakes, and neatly written or typed.

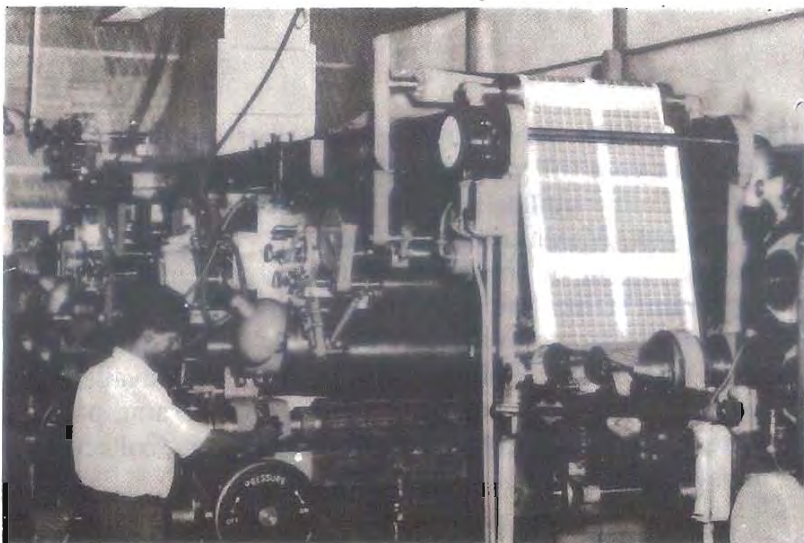
In the layout a great deal of thought should be given to the provision of writing space so that the page appears well balanced. This also applies to the stamps and other documents mounted on the page. Their placement along with the write-up should be such that the page does not look either crowded or empty. Provision should be kept at the top of

the page for the subheading which tallies with the plan. Remember your collection should not only consist of stamps but also of other philatelic items such as commercial covers, cancellations, Maximum cards, etc.

The condition of the material is very important. Well centred mint stamps are to be preferred and there should be no damaged stamps in the exhibit. You can include used postage stamps only if mint stamps are not easily available. Avoid mounting mint and used stamps on the same page.

A neat, clean, well-mounted, properly laid out collection is always appreciated.





STAMP PRINTING

Collectors are naturally curious to know how a stamp is printed. In the catalogue, mention is made of the printing processes like typography, offset lithography, intaglio or photogravure. But what actually are these processes? The technicalities are very complicated but the broad principles of their working are simple.

The four main printing processes for the production of postage stamps are:

Typography

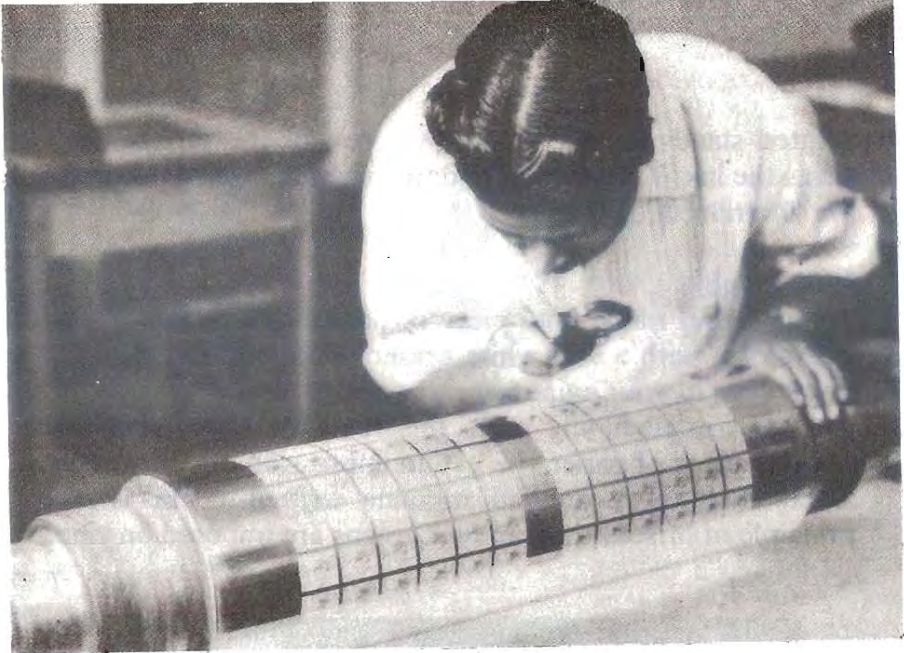
You must have noticed that people use rubber stamps to print their names and addresses. How do they get the impression from the rubber stamp on to paper? The rubber stamp is inked and then pressed on the paper and thus the name is imprinted. This is the principle on which typography or letterpress printing works, viz. the design to be

printed stands up higher than the rest of the surface and takes the ink. The printing is done when the inked portions are impressed on paper.

Lithography

Write your name on a piece of paper with sufficient ink and blot it with a soft white eraser. You will find that an impression of your name appears on the eraser in reverse. If you then immediately press this reversed impression on another piece of paper you get an impression of your name in exactly the way you had originally written it. This is the principle of offset lithography. Designs are imposed on zinc





or aluminium plates by photographic methods. The plates do not print directly on the paper; a rubber cylinder in the printing machines takes an impression from the inked plate and prints it on the paper.

Engraving

You take a piece of soft wood with a plain smooth surface. Engrave your name in reverse with your pen-knife. Fill in the engraved cavities with printing ink. Wipe the surface clean with a piece of cloth. Press the block of wood on a piece of blotting paper. You get the imprint of your name in relief. This is the principle of the intaglio process where the design is engraved in the reverse by experts. The engraved portions take the ink and leave an impression of

the design in relief on the paper. The design thus formed can be felt by hand.

Photogravure

The principle of the photogravure process is the same as the intaglio process except that instead of being engraved by hand, in photogravure the design is photographed through a fine screen so that it is broken into tiny dots. These tiny dots are then etched on copper by a mechanical process with the help of chemicals. The cavity of the dots takes the ink and leaves it on the paper to form the design. Since 1952 Indian postage stamps have been printed by the photogravure process.



Every process has its own merits and utility.

The letterpress is still used for printing stamps but mainly for over-printing.

When several colours but exceptional quality is not required, offset lithography is both ideal and economical.

For designs which do not demand sharp reproduction of fine lines, the photogravure process produces stamps of excellent quality.

Commercial printers have developed printing processes which combine engraving, photogravure and lithography to produce better and better quality stamps.



ERRORS AND DEFECTS

Stamps are printed by such complicated processes that printing mistakes often occur. After printing, stamps are examined thoroughly before being sent to post offices for sale but a few mistakes do escape scrutiny. Unlike other collectors who carefully avoid buying any defective item, stamp-collectors hunt for stamps with defects or errors.



Various types of errors and mistakes occur in the production of stamps. Some of the more common ones are:

Fresh-entry

Sometimes a design placed on the plate has to be destroyed and replaced by another because it does not align correctly with the rest. If the original design is not completely erased, some lines are likely to show in the printed copies. A stamp with this defect is known as 'Fresh-entry'.

Re-entries

When the plate is worn out or the design gets damaged, repairs are done to 'sharpen up' the impressions. Such repairs are called 'Re-entries'.

Re-touches

It often happens that after printing for some time by the lithographic process, some portion of the design on the stone or plate gets worn out. The damaged areas are touched up before further printing. Sometimes the touching up is quite visible. Stamps showing this defect are called 'Re-touches'.

Tete Beche

While marking a printing plate or laying down the design on a stone, one design is sometimes laid upside down in relation to the others. When stamps are torn out singly from the printed sheets no difference is noticed but if such a stamp is retained in a pair with a correct stamp, we get the much sought-for error, a 'Tete Beche'.



Double

There are various kinds of 'doubles'. While printing, if a sheet of paper goes through the machine twice, the design will be doubled. The greater the distance between the two impressions the more valuable will be the error.

Sometimes the paper is printed on twice by mistake; once face upward and then on the back. This results in the design being printed on both sides. Such errors are very important in stamp-collecting.

When a stamp has more than one colour the sheet has to be printed on as many times as there are colours in the



design. Accurate adjustment is absolutely necessary when printing each colour in its appropriate place. Even slight mistakes in adjustment can cause errors highly valued by stamp-collectors.

Kiss

Sometimes while removing the printed sheet, owing to careless handling, the paper touches the plate again and this leaves a slight second impression on

some of the stamps. This is not a double impression. Such an error is called a 'Kiss'.

Colour Missing

Sometimes while printing the second or the third colour, two sheets may go into the machine together with the result that in the lower sheet one colour is found missing. Such errors in stamps are greatly sought for by stamp-collectors.

Inverted

Occasionally the frame is printed in one colour and the centre design in another. If after printing the frame, the paper is fed in by the wrong end for the second printing, the centre design comes out 'inverted' in relation to the frame.

Change in Shade

Owing to variation in the mixing of the ink, different

shades and tones of the same colour are sometimes very noticeable. This defect was very common in earlier stamps.

Flaws

If sheets get folded or creased while printing, white gaps caused by the crease appear across the printed stamps. Sometimes some portions of the design on the stamps may be found missing. These are called 'flaws' or 'freaks'.

A stamp-collection becomes more interesting if a variety of errors can also be included. The stamp-collector has, therefore, to be a very keen observer and detect various errors in stamps and get them for his collection. Besides making it interesting, stamps with errors make the collec-

tion valuable. Collectors the world over keep a close watch on such stamps as they change hands and fetch fabulous prices.

Most of the errors mentioned are the results of printing. The collector should, therefore, check his stamps carefully for printing errors. Some of these errors have made stamp history. Three examples of 'inverts' alone show how important it is for the collector to learn to scrutinise his stamps.



One of the most important Indian stamps is the 'Indian 4-anna Inverted Head'. This was among the first all-India stamps issued by the lithographic process in the Surveyor-General's Office in 1854. In the series, the 4-anna stamp was the only one to be printed in two colours. The others were all in one colour. The frame and head of the stamps were printed in separate operations. In the process of printing, the head was printed inverted in relation to the frame but the error was not discovered till 1874. There are about 28 genuine copies of this 'Indian 4-anna Inverted Head' and each copy is now priced between £10,000 to £35,000 (Rs 2,30,000 to Rs 8,05,000).

A similar mistake was made in the United States in 1869. Ten stamps in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents were issued. The lower values were printed in a single colour while the four highest were printed in two colours. When selling these a Government agent found among his supply, a complete sheet of 15-cent value in which every stamp had the centre inverted. The stamp depicted the landing of Columbus. Similar errors in 24-cent and 30-cent values were also recorded in later years. About eight unused specimens of these 'inverts' are known to exist. Of these the 15-cent is the rarest and is priced at £16,000 (Rs 3,68,000) each. The next in value is the 30-cent stamp priced at £7,500 (Rs 1,72,500) each. The '24-cent Invert' is priced at £6,500 (Rs 1,49,500).

The young collector who does not examine his stamps carefully can miss such treasures. He should try to be as observant as W.T. Robey, who was the first to notice the 'USA 24-cent Airmail Inverts'. The U.S. post office issued a

new 24-cent airmail stamp on 13 May 1918. The design of the stamp was an aeroplane in flight and was printed in two colours. Mr Robey, an enthusiastic philatelist of Washington, purchased a sheet of stamps from the nearest post office and to his amazement found that the aeroplane in the centre of the stamps was upside down. His sheet became a rarity. A week later he sold the sheet at \$15,000 (Rs 1,95,000). It then changed hands at \$20,000



24-cent Airmail 'Invert'

(Rs 2,60,000) and went to a Colonel Green who sold the stamp in blocks and single pieces. In 1940, a single specimen realised \$4,100 (Rs 53,300).

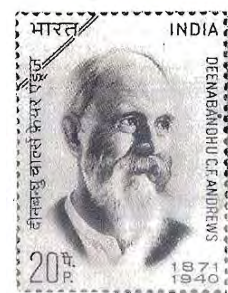
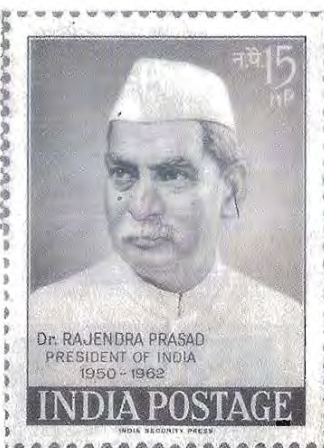
You now have an idea of how exciting stamp-collecting can be. It can also prove to be unexpectedly profitable. You never know if a stamp in your collection will not some day be priceless. But what is more important is the fact that stamp-collecting teaches you so much about so many countries. This fascinating hobby combines the joys of a

pastime with the advantages of gathering a great deal of useful knowledge on varied topics. To a stamp-collector his album can be a small encyclopaedia of general information.





















PHILATELIC TERMS

Adhesive: A stamp originally issued with gum on the back so that it can be stuck on.

Albino: Any part of a stamp design where no ink is impressed (by error)—most common to embossed stamps.

Bisects: Stamps which have been cut in half (usually diagonally), i.e. a 4a stamp cut and used as a 2a on the envelope. Such stamps have been permitted by many countries during emergencies.

Bishop Mark: Famous circular handstamp mark introduced in 1661 by Henry Bishop.

Block of stamps: A group of four stamps or more still joined together and not in strip form.

Cachet: A mark on mail showing a special occurrence, like a first-day cover, expedition or special air-flight.

Cancellation: Any mark which defaces a stamp to indicate that it has been used. These can be postmarks, pen-marks, words like 'Specimen', hole punches, etc.

Centered: A term used where a stamp design is balanced equally from the four margins. Off-centre

stamps are usually of great value.

Coil stamps: Stamps produced for sale for vending machines—usually outside post offices. They are rolled in a single line and often have a sideways watermark. They are also known as rolls.

Combination cover: Where stamps of more than one country are found on a cover.

Cover: The envelope or wrapper to which a stamp is attached.

Definitive issues: The normal issues of stamps of a country as against commemorative, charities, etc.

Die: The actual piece of engraved metal which is sometimes called the original master-die. It is normally used for the purpose of reproducing replica impressions on a 'plate' by which the stamps are printed.

Entire: A complete envelope, post-card or wrapper with stamps attached.

Error: Where there is something wrong with the stamp compared to the normal issue.

Essays: Stamp designs submitted for an issue but not eventually accepted.

First-day cover: Envelope bearing stamp used and postmarked on its first day of use.

Fiscal: A stamp used for collecting non-postal taxes.

Imperforate: A stamp that is not perforated and needs cutting from the sheet.

Inverted: Often part of a design will be inverted, such as the head of the monarch or the figure of the denomination.

Killer: A term used to describe particularly heavy obliterations.

Miniature sheet: Specially produced sheets of stamps sometimes containing only one stamp usually for commemorative purposes.

Mint: A stamp in its original perfect state complete with gum.

Mulready: The prepaid first envelope issued in Great Britain in 1840 and designed by William Mulready.

Overprint: Marks put on a stamp after its original printing. Many collectors only use the term to denote markings that do not alter the face value and thus distinguish it from the word 'surcharged'.

Perforation: Where the edges of a stamp have been punched by a machine to remove portions of

the paper. This produces small circular holes between stamps and enables them to be separated easily. Where a stamp has been rouletted instead of perforated, it means that the paper has not actually been removed; it has only been cut. The gauge of a perforation is measured by the number of holes in a space of 2 cm. Hence, Perf 12½, Perf 15 denote the number of holes in that space.

Philatelic Bureau: Officially appointed bureau set up by various governments and attached to the post offices to deal with stamp-collectors.

Plate numbers: Stamps produced by some countries have numbers in the margins denoting the serial of the printing plates. Some stamps, including all those issued by Great Britain between 1858 and 1880 have plate numbers on the actual stamps as well.

Postal history: Matters pertaining to the postal systems of the world from the very beginning of the interchange of messages. A student of postal history is not necessarily a stamp-collector.

Postal stationery: Envelopes, postcards and wrappers which have sta-

mps printed or embossed on them.

Quadrille: Paper watermarked or printed with crossed lines which has a pattern of small squares.

Roulette: As distinct from perforation, rouletting is a form of separating stamps by marking cuts on the paper without removing any paper.

Se-tenant: A term used to describe two stamps of different design

or colour that are joined together.

Tete-Beche: A term describing two stamps joined together where one is upside down.

Vignette: The central portrait or main design on a stamp.

Watermark: A marking produced in the paper during the process of manufacture.

It is interesting to note when each country and Postal Administration brought out its first postage stamp. An effort has been made for the benefit of the collectors to indicate this in the following list:

1840	Great Britain		bourg, Modena, Oldenburg, Parma, Reunion, Roman States, Thurn and Taxis
1843	Brazil, Geneva, Zurich		
1845	Basel, United States (postmasters)		
1847	Mauritius, United States (governmental), Trinidad	1853	Capè of Good Hope, Chile, Nova Scotia, Portugal, Tasmania
1848	Bermuda		
1849	Bavaria, Belgium, France	1854	Philippine Islands, Western Australia
1850	Austria, British Guiana, Hanover, New South Wales	1855	Bremen, Corrientes, Cuba and Puerto Rico, Danish West Indies, New Zealand, Norway, South Australia, Sweden
	Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Spain, Switzerland, Victoria		
1851	Baden, Canada, Denmark, Hawaiian Islands, New Brunswick, Sardinia, Tuscany, Wurtemberg	1856	Finland, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mexico, St Helena, Uruguay
1852	Barbados, Brunswick, The Netherlands, India, Luxem-	1857	Ceylon, Natal, Newfoundland, Peru

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| 1858 | Argentine Republic, Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Naples, Moldavia, Peru, Russia | 1867 | Chiapas, Guadalajara, Heligoland, Turkish Empire (Austrian P.O.'s), Salvador, Straits Settlements, Turks Islands |
| 1859 | Bahamas, Colombia Republic, French Colonies, Hamburg, Ionian Islands, Lubeck, Romagna, Sicily, Venezuela, Sierra Leone | 1868 | Antiquia, Azores, Fernando Poo, Madeira, North German Confederation, Orange River Colony (O.F.S.), Persia |
| 1860 | Jamaica, Liberia, Malta, New Caledonia, Queensland, St Lucia, Poland, British Columbia and Vancouver Island | 1869 | Gambia, Hyderabad, Sarawak, Transvaal (S.A.R.) |
| 1861 | Bergedorf, Confederate States, Greece, Grenada, Neapolitan Provinces, Nevis, Prince Edward Island, St Vincent, Falk Islands | 1870 | Afghanistan, Alsace Lorraine, Angola, Cundinamarca, Fiji, Paraguay, St Christopher, Tolima, St Thomas and Prince Islands |
| 1862 | Antigua, Hong Kong, Italy (kingdom), Nicaragua | 1871 | Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, |
| 1863 | Boliva, Turkish Empire (Russian P.O.'s), Costa Rica, Turkey, Wenden | 1872 | Germany |
| 1864 | Dutch Indies, Holstein, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Soruth Schleswig, | 1873 | Cuba, Curaco, Iceland, Puerto Rico (Spanish), Surinam |
| 1865 | Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Rumania, Shanghai, | 1874 | Dominica, Griqualand, Jind, Lagos, Montenegro, Turkish Empire (Italian P.O.'s) |
| 1866 | Bolivia, British Honduras, Egypt, Honduras, Jammu and Kashmir, Serbia, Virgin Islands | 1875 | Gold Coast |
| | | 1876 | Bhopal, Montserrat, Poonch, Johore, Campeche, Mozambique |
| | | 1877 | Alwar, Cape Verd, Naw-anagor, Samoa, San Marino, |

1878	Hondures China, Panama, Perak, Sungei Ujong		Travancore, Tunisia, Wadhwān, Zululand, Bamra
1879	Bhor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cauca, Faridkot, Labuan, Sirmoor, Tobago	1889	French Madagascar, Indo-China, Nossi Be, Swaziland, Pahang
1880	Cyprus, Eastern Roumelia, Rajpipla	1890	British East Africa, British South Africa (Rhodesia), Diego-Suarez, Leeward Islands, Seychelles
1881	Haiti, Nepal, Portuguese Guinea, Selangor	1891	French Congo, Morocco (French P.O.'s), Negri Sembilan, Nyasaland Protectorate (B.C.A.), Tierra de Fuego
1882	Bangkok (British P.O.'s) Tahiti		
1883	North Borneo, Siam		
1884	Guadeloupe, Macao, Madagascar (B.C.N.) Patiala, Santander, Stellaland, Turkish Empire (German P.O.'s), Korea	1892	Angra, Anjouan, Benin, Cochin, Cook Islands, French Guinea, Funchal, Horta, Ivory Coast, Mayotte, Mozambique Co. Niger Coast (Oil Rivers), Obock, Oceanic Settlements, Ponta Delgada, Rajnandgaon
1885	Guanacaste, Gwalior, Monaco, Nabha, St Pierre and Miquelon, South Bulgaria, Turkish Empire (British P.O.'s), Turkish Empire (French P.O.'s), Bechuanaland	1893	Duttia, Eritrea, Tanganyika (G.E.A.), Djibouti
1886	Chamba, Cochin Belgian Congo, French Guiana, Gaboon, Gibraltar, Martinique, New Republic South Africa, Tonga, Indore, Timor	1894	Abyssinia, Bundi, Char-khari, P.O.'s), French Sudan, Lourenço Marques, Ste Marie de Madagascar, Zambesia, Zanzibar (French P.O.'s), Portuguese Congo
1887	Jhalawar, Senegal	1895	Inhambane, Bussahir, Uganda, Zanzibar (British)
1888	Annam at Tonquin,		

1896	Honda, Turkish Empire (Roumanian P.O.'s), Madagascar (French P.O.'s)	1903	Aitutaki, British Somali-land, Crete (Austrian P.O.'s), East Africa and Uganda, Elobey, Annobon and Corisco, Somalia, Morocco (Spanish P.O.'s), St Kitts-Nevis, Senegambia and Niger
1897	Cameroons, China (German P.O.'s), Dhar, German South-West Africa, Grand Comoro, Las Bela, Marshall Islands, Nyassa, Sudan Togo	1904	Jaipur, Panama Canal Zone
1898	Crete (British P.O.'s), Morocco (British P.O.'s), Portuguese Africa, Thessaly, German New Guinea,	1905	Rio de Oro
1899	Boyaca, Caroline Islands, Dahomey, Egypt (French P.O.'s), Guam, Kishengarh, Morocco (German P.O.'s), Cuba	1906	Brunei, Maldives, Mauritania, Moheli, Upper Senegal and Niger
1900	Crete, China (Japanese P.O.'s), Korea (Japanese P.O.'s), Crete (Italian P.O.'s), Federated Malay States, German Samoa, Kiautschou, Marianne Islands, Northern Nigeria, Turks and Caicos Islands	1907	British Solomon Islands, Middle Congo
1901	Magdalena, Papua (B.N.G.), Southern Nigeria, Cayman Islands, Cyrenaica	1908	New Hebrides
1902	Crete (French P.O.'s), French Somali Coast, Niue, Penrhyn Islands, Spanish Guinea	1910	Trengganu, Tripolitania, Union of South Africa
		1911	Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Kelantan, Tibet (Chinese P.O.'s)
		1912	Kedah, Liechtenstein, Tibet and Aegean Islands,
		1913	Albania, Australia, Orchha, Trinidad, Tobago
		1914	New Guinea, Nigeria
		1916	Cape Juby, Nauru, Oubangui-Chari, Ruanda-Urundi, Saudi Arabia
		1918	Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Fiume, Latvia, Iraq, Lithuania, Palestine, Ukraine, Yugoslavia

1919	Batum, Georgia, Shanghai (U.S. P.O.'s), Syria	1942	Jasdan, Shihr and Mukulla
1920	Central Lithuania, Danzig, Armenia, Silesia, Ingermanland, Jordan, Memel, Saar, Upper Volta, Wallis and Futuna Islands	1944	Campione, Falkland Island Dependencies, Muscat, Slovenia
1921	Barwani, Niger, Togo	1945	Venezia Giulia and Istria, Formosa, Indonesian, Republic, Viet-Nam
1922	Ascension, Barbuda, Ireland, Tchad	1946	Fezzan, China (People's Republic), North Viet-Nam, South Viet-Nam
1923	Kuwait, League of Nations, Transcaucasian Federation	1947	Norfolk Island, Pakistan, Trieste
1924	Algeria, Lebanon, Mongolia, Southern Rhodesia, Spanish Sahara,	1948	Bahawalpur, Israel, Malacca, Penang, Perlis, Ryukyu Islands, Tokelau Islands, West Berlin
1925	Alaouities, Jubaland, Northern Rhodesia	1949	Rajasthan, East Germany, West Germany
1926	Northern Mongolia (Tannu Touva), Yemen	1950	Comoro Islands, Netherlands, New Guinea
1928	Andorra	1951	Cambodia, Galapagos Islands, Laos, Libya, United Nations
1929	Vatican City	1952	Papua and New Guinea, Tristan Da Cunha
1931	Morvi	1954	Rhodesia and Nyasaland
1932	Inini, Manchuria	1956	Tunisia
1933	Bahrain, Basutoland	1957	Quatar, Togo (autonomous republic)
1935	Bijawar	1958	Christmas Island, Malagasy Republic
1937	Aden, Burma	1959	Upper Volta Republic, Guinea (Republic), Central
1938	Greenland, Hatay, Italian East Africa		
1939	Idar, Slovakia		
1940	Faroe Islands, Pitcairn Islands		
1941	Channel Islands, Croatia, Ifni		

	African Republic, Congo	1963	Malaysia, South Arabian
	Republic, Ivory Coast		Federation, Dubai, Kenya,
	Republic		Sharjah and dependen-
1960	Congo, Camaroons, Rio		dencies
	Muni, Dahomey Republic,	1964	East Africa, Ajman, Fujeira,
	Mali, Mauritania		Abu Dhabi Ras-al-Khaima,
1961	Trucial States		Zambia, Malawi
1962	Bhutan, Burundi, Rwanda,	1966	Manama, Bahrain
	Western New Guinea	1967	Anguilla





